

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 15 (canceled)

16. (new) A first-surface optical disk for use with a laser beam, comprising:

an information layer, and

a transparent layer overlaying the information layer, wherein the thickness of the transparent layer with respect to the wavelength of the read/write laser beam is such that dust particles on the surface of the transparent layer are not defocused when reading data from the information layer with the laser beam passing through the transparent layer,

wherein the information layer is organized into ECC blocks, each ECC block forming an array of 104 rows and 182 columns of bytes, each row including ten bytes of inner parity and each column including sixteen bytes of outer parity.

17. (new) The first-surface optical disk of Claim 16, wherein said array includes row codewords being RS(182,172,11) and column codewords being RS(104,88,17).

18. (new) The first-surface optical disk of Claim 16, wherein said array is divided into eight sectors, each sector having thirteen rows.

19. (new) The first-surface optical disk of Claim 18, wherein each sector comprises eleven rows of data and two rows of outer parity, each row having ten bytes of inner parity.

20. (new) The first-surface optical disk of Claim 18, wherein each sector comprises:

a four byte identification data (ID) field;

a two byte ID error detection code field;

a two byte system information field;

a 1880 byte user data field; and

a four byte error detection code field.

21. (new) A first-surface optical disk for use with a laser beam, comprising:

an information layer, the information layer having no transparent layer overlaying to defocus dust particles, wherein the information layer is organized into ECC blocks, each ECC

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block forming an array of 104 rows and 182 columns of bytes, each row including ten bytes of inner parity and each column including sixteen bytes of outer parity.

22. (new) The first-surface optical disk of Claim 21, wherein said array is divided into eight sectors, each sector having thirteen rows.

23. (new) The first-surface optical disk of Claim 22, wherein each sector comprises:
an identification data (ID) field;
an ID error detection code field;
a user data field; and
an error detection code field.

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24. (new) The first-surface optical disk of Claim 23, wherein said ID field is four bytes, said ID error detection code field is two bytes, said user data field is 1880 bytes, and said error detection field is four bytes, said sector further comprising a two byte system information field.

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